



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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Janice Brewer, Governor

William A. Mundell, Director

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Media Advisory

Unlicensed contractor ordered to pay Restitution to victims after investigation by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors

In March 2013, Lance Oden pled guilty in Mesa City Court to two counts of contracting without a license (a class 1 misdemeanor). The sentences included:

- Up to \$5,443 in restitution,
- \$2,000 in fines,
- 23 days jail, and
- 3 years probation.

The Mesa City Court prosecuted Oden after an investigation and referral from the Arizona Registrar of Contractors for contracting without a license. The Registrar of Contractor's investigation found that after accepting payment Oden performed poor or no work.

"Protecting the people of Arizona from illegal contracting is our highest priority", said William Mundell, Director of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.

The Registrar of Contractors advises homeowners to protect themselves by:

- Reviewing the contractor's license record at (<http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>).
- Verifying that the person is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor's number listed on the ROC license record.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references and checking them.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, making checks payable to the licensed contractor (not an individual), and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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